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REMARKS

ON THE

Bishop of *Cloyne's* BOOK,

ENTITLED

SIRIS, &c.

As far as it relates to

TAR-WATER.

In a LETTER to a FRIEND.

By *RISORIUS*, M. A. *Oxon.*

———— Nil fuit unquam
Quam dispar sibi ————

HOR. I. Sat. 3. Lib. 18.

L O N D O N:

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On the Bishop of CLOYNE's Book,

ENTITLED

SIRIS, &c.

Dear SIR,

I HAVE been lately reading a Book, entitled *SIRIS, &c.* From the Account I had before received of the Bishop of Cloyne's Manner of extolling his Tar-Water, and making it good for every thing, I confess I sat down to the Task not absolutely free from Prepossession; having always entertain'd a strong Aversion to Panacea's, and whatever had been usher'd into the World, in the medical Way, under the lofty Pretensions of Omnipotence, and Universality. The Charge, which the Voice of the Publick had fix'd upon the Bishop in this Behalf, I quickly

perceived, upon Perusal, was but too well founded; and could not but admire, how his Lordship could exclaim against Catholicons^a, and yet be himself so weak as to attempt to set up one of his own, with equal, if not higher Claims, than any other pretends to. However, I was the less surprized at this Conduct in his Lordship, as knowing him to be an Idealist of the most enlarged Notions, and consequently not likely to think on any Subject like other Men.

But the Extravagancy of the Bishop's Conceits, in Favour of his new Medicine, was but, methought, as the first Article of Impeachment; for that Part of his Work, which treats of the Use of Tar-Water (and which was the Part I principally attended to) seem'd to me to be a very rash, and hasty Performance, and in that Regard by no means worthy of the Character of its learned, and reverend, Author. A meer Design of promoting the publick Weal, which, it seems, was his Lordship's special Motive for sending the Piece abroad, though it be laudable in itself, can never produce the Good intended. Zeal alone will ever prove insufficient to make useful Discoveries; on the contrary, without a competent Degree of *Knowledge*, can only serve to mislead the *ignorant* and *unwary*. And I was soon convinc'd his Lordship's Qualifications in the *Art Medical* were

^a Vide Page 33.

were far too slender for reasonable Men to build any great Dependance upon. His want of Skill, as a Writer on that Subject, was so glaring that it perfectly surprized me; inso-much that I was amaz'd to think how a Gentleman, who had enter'd so deeply into other, and some very abstruse, Parts of Learning, could be persuaded he had made any Acquaintance with Physick, or could satisfy himself in obtruding any Treatise on that Art, so crude as this, upon the World. Some few general Observations, I cou'd not help writing down, as strong Marks of his Lordship's Ignorance in these Matters; such at least they appeared to me at that Time, and probably *you* may think they have some Weight.

The First was, that above recited, his Lordship's setting up his Medicine as a Catholicon: a Thing, I apprehended, never once dreamt of by any but Quacks.

The Second was, what may pass for a Consequence of the former, his attributing to it contrary, and opposite, Effects.

Thirdly, His passing over the Symptoms, Diagnostics, and Pathognomics of any Disease, his Medicine is supposed to cure; whereby we are precluded from forming any Opinion ourselves, and under a Necessity of acquiescing in his Judgment

ment of the Distemper, which probably may be very erroneous. This I thought insufferable even in medical Writers, and much more so in any Gentleman not of the Faculty.

Fourthly, His Omission in not reporting Cases; whereas exact Histories are always expected, when a new Method of Treatment is recommended.

Fifthly, His Manner of Dosing, which in some Cases is indeterminate; in others, the same Dose is given indiscriminately to all, in the same Disease, however complicated, without any Regard shewn to the Difference of Age, and Sex, or the great Variety of Constitutions.

Sixthly, An unpardonable Boldness in advising his Medicine in some arduous Cases, wherein notwithstanding he owns he had never tried it: a Rashness, which I always look'd upon as the very Quintessence of Quackery.

But even allowing Tar-Water an excellent Remedy in the Bishop's masterly Hand, it might prove very prejudicial under the Management of the more illiterate; and therefore I would advise no body to take it from any Physician, but from the Bishop only. Besides,
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for ought I know, it may be better adapted to the Climate of *Ireland*, than to *English* Constitutions; in which Case, the prudent Part would be, to leave it entirely to the *Irish*, those Neighbours of the Bishop, who have the Opportunity of applying immediately to his Lordship for Advice. I am indeed persuaded 'tis not *calculated to do good*^a to the *English*; and to prevent my dear Countrymen from being deluded by any specious Pretences to the contrary, I shall now proceed to examine his Lordship's Account of Tar-Water more particularly.

1st then, I shall consider it as a Cordial, Stomachic, and Diuretic. We are told, that it is a *great Cordial*^b; that it *quickens the Circulation of the Fluids*^c; and *possesses the cardiac and stomachic Qualities of Stoughton's Drops, and Elixir Proprietatis*^d. Would not any one from hence imagine it was cardiac and alexipharmic? I confess I did, and was so weak as to apprehend, that the Use of it must affect the Body with a very sensible Degree of Heat. I was so foolish as to think, that Motion would ever produce Heat, and that the Heat of the Body must be, as the Momentum of the Blood; or in other Words, in proportion of the Quantity of the Blood multiplied by its Velocity; or yet more mathematically speaking,

^a Page 1.^b Sect. 52.^c Sect. 77.^d Sect. 53.

ing, in a Ratio compounded of the Quantity of Blood, and the Velocity. Upon this View, the Effect will be the same, whether we suppose an Increase in the Velocity, or of the Mass of Blood itself; in either Case, the Momentum will be greater, and consequently there must be a greater, or more intense, Degree of Heat. Such was my Philosophy, indeed widely different from the Bishop's. According to him, Tar-Water, though it does quicken the Circulation, is yet *cooling*^e, and is at once *the safest Cooler and Cordial*^f. Thus has his Lordship obliged the World, by the Introduction of a new Kind of Philosophy, as well as the Faculty of Physick with a *new Kind of Cordial, a Cordial that beats not*. To find myself thus widely mistaken, in a Matter seemingly so plain, you will easily imagine, nettled me not a little. And for farther Satisfaction in this Point, I applied myself to Nurse *Juniper*, a Woman of great Knowledge and Experience, and long famous in her Way. She tells me, the Doctors always put *Aka Mirabalus*, or some other strong Water into their *cordial* Julaps, to make them *warm* and comfortable to the Stomach. Upon my asking her whether she ever heard of a *cooling Cordial*, the old Woman laugh'd, and shew'd her Gums, demanding of me where I had led my Life? Though Nurse seem'd to sneer me, I was not a little

^e Sect. 51.^f Sect. 7.

a little pleas'd with her Humour, as her Opinion coincided with my own. I had often heard the Country People call Drams, Cordials, and always imagin'd those Liquors Physicians stile *cardiac*, were either *entirely spirituous*, or *strongly impregnated with Spirits*. In this you see the soaring Genius of his Lordship, which scorns to be confin'd to the narrow Limits of a low, groveling Mind, or to think in any manner with the Vulgar. Tar-Water, where he judges Refrigerants necessary, is cooling and attenuating; when, on the contrary, such Medicines as accelerate the Pulse are required, it becomes highly cardiac, though without losing its cooling Quality.

But the cardiac Quality in Tar-Water, how extraordinary soever, is not more remarkable than the stomachic. The Bishop tells us, *he never knew any thing so good for the Stomach &c.* This is probable enough; but does it from hence follow, that there really is no better Stomachic known to *others*? I doubt his Knowledge in Physick hardly reaches higher than an Index; whereas the Gentlemen of the Faculty are by no means so limited and confined in Science. As their Reading, as well as Practice, certainly is, so their Knowledge may be fairly presum'd, more extensive. Should any Gentleman who stiles himself *M. D.* presume thus to dictate to his Lordship in a Matter of Divinity, I am afraid he would take it hei-

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nously ill, and deem him, at least, forward and impertinent. But I would not be understood to hint such Forwardness or Impertinence in his Lordship, who, out of a Principle of doing Good, has obliged the World with a Stomachic no less new, than surprizing. *Others* in common Use serve to *corroborate*, his only *not to offend* the Stomach, upon Condition too, that it be rightly taken ^h. Indeed the Bishop ingenuously owns, that an invincible Nausea and Disgust was once brought on by it ⁱ. It was taken too, unluckily enough! according to his own Directions; and one would imagine, he himself must best know the Method of preparing, and giving, his own Medicine ^k. It is plain then, by the Words *rightly taken* must be implied more, than at first Sight is readily apprehended. Now if by *rightly taken*, be understood the taking the Medicine in the *right Hand*, and this Patient be supposed left-handed, the Mystery is out, and we may account for the Nausea, which happened in this Instance. What surprizes me much is, that his Lordship should so entirely forget the *Irish* Liquor on this Occasion. But perhaps, like the rest of the World, he is fond only of such Things as are far-fetch'd, and despises the Manufacture, though better, of his own Clime. Certainly, upon so favourable an Opportunity offered, he ought to have made

^h Sect. 114. ⁱ Sect. 115. ^k Vide Sect. 4, and 115.

made honourable Mention of Usquebaugh. Nor would there have been any Necessity for the same Caution in the Use of it; since 'tis undoubtedly a good Stomachic and Cordial, *out of which Hand soever it be taken.*

But to come to it's Qualities, as a Diuretic. The Bishop allows the very best Turpentine are of a Nature so very relaxing, as sometimes to do Mischief; though we are told, Tar-Water is ever unattended with the same ill Effects^l: *that it may be taken for six Months together with great Benefit, and without any Inconvenience^m: nay, that he never knew any Evil ensue from its being continued ever so longⁿ.* This is certainly more than can be said of other Diuretics, and more, I am persuaded, than is true of Tar-Water, unless he be understood with great Limitations. Children are the only Instances, his Lordship brings, of Persons, that have taken it for half a Year together. They perhaps *may*, and probably old Men *might*, continue the Use of it for so great a Length of Time, with little or no Inconvenience, besides a Diabetes; that is, a frequent Necessity of watering their Breeches, or their Beds. But the Effects of it will be more direful to younger Men, whom certainly it must greatly unman, if not render entirely impotent. I cannot possibly take the Bishop's Word, that Tar-Water is at the same Time both *potent*

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and

^l Sect. 61.^m Sect. 67.ⁿ Sect. 110.

and *innocent* °. Potency in a Diureretic seems inconsistent with Innocency, especially, when that Diuretic is long continued. In some Sense indeed, it may be called *innocent*, as having a natural Tendency to *produce Innocency at length*. 'Tis undoubtedly a sad Age we live in; young Folks are grown most abominably wicked; and too much abandon themselves to the Company of lewd Women. To prevent this growing Vice, the *Turkish*, and *Italian*, Method by the Knife, might perhaps be the most effectual; though I doubt not, were the Bishop's Advice strictly pursued, it would in Time answer the same End. You see then, Dear Sir, the Bishop's Dexterity in using the Word *innocent* equivocally; 'tis by a deep Fetch of Art, decoying People, otherwise averse to their Duty, into a Necessity of not transgressing in this Point.

I shall now take a View of the principal Cases wherein the Bishop recommends Tar-Water. To begin then with it, as a *Preservative against*, and *Preparative for, the Small-Pox*. These Properties his Lordship has been pleased to assign it^p. One only Instance, tho' it must be confessed, a very remarkable one indeed, of this *alexipharmic* Power in Tar-Water, is produced by him. Six Children, all of one Family, took the Medicine for this Purpose; and behold the Event! *all the Six caught*

° Sect. 99.

p Sect. 2.

caught the Small-Pox^a. Is not this Dotage to the highest Degree? Is it not making Virtues, and giving them to his Favourite Water, contrary even to the clearest Evidence of Matter of Fact? Drove therefore from this Fastness the Bishop is obliged to have Recourse to it's being a *Preparative* for that Distemper; and, doubtless, a most surprizing one, it must need be, since the *whole six* did well, and recover'd of their Malady^r. But let it at the same Time be consider'd, that this Disease in some Families, without such Assistance, is rarely, very rarely, fatal; that in the common Course of it, not *one* in *six* dies; and that Children of all others are in general most favourably dealt withal. It may perhaps be urged, can there be any Room to doubt of its being an excellent Preparative, when the only Child, which took not the Medicine, caught the Distemper, and died of it? For myself, I confess there is more than Room; this Child's Refusal was undoubtedly a Mark of its Frowardness, and, from the Refusal being taken, we may probably conjecture, that it was of a puny Constitution, and hardly yet out of Leading-Strings. To make one so young, and untoward, observe Rules, and drink largely, must be next to impossible; and to these things put together, the Miscarriage, in all likelihood, might be owing. If, after all, this must

^a Sect. 2.^r *Vide* Sect. 2.

must appear marvellous in the Bishop's Eyes, I believe no Gentleman of common Observation and Discernment will view it in the same Light; I am confident you will not. The Truth is, the Bishop has erected an Idol of his own, and he himself must, or no body else will, fall down and worship it.

Encouraged thereto by these surprizing Successes, he ventures at length to advise it in the foulest Distempers, in plain *English*, Claps^s. Methinks I am sorry, a Gentleman of the Bishop's Purity of Life, and Manners, should ever have had any Occasion of holding Intercourse with Persons so foully diseas'd. It must be his Excess of Charity no doubt that engaged him to undertake their Cure; undertake it he might, but a Miracle I apprehend must be necessary to enable him to compleat it, to compleat it, I mean, by Tar-Water. A Miracle did I say? I heartily ask the Bishop Pardon; I believe, upon Recollection, it may effect a Cure; yet it must be in the same extraordinary Way *Misaubin* cur'd his Patients, by throwing them into a true Lues, for which doubtless they wou'd be highly obliged to their Doctor. His Lordship indeed seems to hint, he made an *effectual Cure*: If he did, I am persuaded no Physician will ever undertake to accomplish the like by the same Means. I wou'd not however be understood, as calling in Question the Bishop's Veracity upon this Occasion;

caſion; he might probably be miſtaken in his Caſe, and call *that* a *Gonorrhœa virulenta*; which was in reality a *Gonorrhœa ſimplex*; wherein perhaps Tar-Water may be allow'd ſome Efficacy. To diſtinguiſh well between the one, and the other, is a nice Point, nor eaſily attainable by any Gentleman, not con-verſant in Practice. I am the more confirm'd in this Opinion of his Miſtake; when he informs us his Method by Tar-Water prov'd more ef-fectual than *Salivations*, and *Wood-Drinks* had done^t; the firſt of which, tho' of no Uſe in the other Caſe, muſt be highly detrimental in a *Gonorrhœa ſimplex*; and the latter, of lit-tle, or no, Efficacy.

But how much ſoever the Biſhop may cry up Tar-Water in theſe Caſes, he extols it no leſs in a *Fever*^v, and indeed with all imagina-ble Reason. Every one ought to commend the Bridge, that carries him ſafe over; and the Doctor informs us he was obliged to it for the Cure of twenty-five Fevers in his own Family. What Species of Fevers theſe were we are left to gueſs; yet I think we may pronounce them Fevers of an uncommon Stupidity, to offer to make ſuch repeated Attacks on a Family, when the Maſter of it had in his Poſſeſſion ſuch an *Herculean* Medicine to combat them with. Fevers in general have ever been look'd upon by the Faculty, as ſubtle Things, and many of them are endued with Sagacity enough

^t Sect. 4.^v Sect. 77.

enough to baffle the most penetrating Genius, and to elude the Force of the best-designed Medicines. The Physical World therefore must be greatly indebted to any Gentleman, that will point out to them some notable Weapon, whereby they may effectually subdue so dangerous Enemies. But alas 'tis a Loss never to be enough lamented! his Lordship, when certainly he ought to have been most particular, has given us only some lax, and general, Rules for it's Use herein. The sole Direction, we meet with, is, that it be drank *copiously, perhaps a large Glass every Hour*. Such most unpardonable Omission nothing can excuse but his own Uncertainty, as to the Dose, and Times of Exhibition. But is it not somewhat surprizing, that any *perhaps* shou'd creep in, or Doubts arise on this Head to *one*, who used it, in his own Family, in no less than *twenty-five Cases* of Fevers, in the space of *one Year* too, as well as *several times* among his poor Neighbours? This seems irreconcilable to me, I confess, without calling in the Assistance of the Adage, *Great Wits, &c.* I cou'd have wished likewise that the Bishop had favour'd us with the Design of a drenching-Horn, proper on this Occasion, as, I apprehend, few, or none can be brought to drink it in a sufficient Quantity, unless compell'd thereunto by Violence. Had this been done, his omitting the Means necessary to make it fit upon the Stomach had been more excusable;
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since this Inconvenience, shou'd it be thrown up, might have been easily remedied, by only repeating the Draught, and drenching the Patient afresh.

The Transition from Fevers in general to a *Peripneumonic*, and *Pleuritic Fever*, is easy and natural^u. I believe, as well as his Lordship, that Bleeding and Blistering, together with tepid Tar-Water, that is, tepid Tar-Water with the Assistance commonly given, may be of Service in a Pleurisy. Indeed he carries the Matter yet higher, and *suspects*, that Tar-Water alone, without any other Help whatsoever^v, would be sufficient to effect a Cure, upon Condition, *it be drank very copiously*^w; but herein I must beg leave to dissent. I have always entertained an utter Aversion to *Suspensions*, and am sorry to find the Bishop of *so suspicious a Temper*. But to his Lordship's Honour be it spoken, he seems unwilling to harbour Suspensions long; for with the very same Breath, and in the very same Sentence, he throws away all Suspicion, and becomes *certain*, that it will be effectual. Nay, he elsewhere informs us, that he *actually has found Success* in these Distempers beyond his Hopes^x. The Doctor will excuse me, when I tell him that, though I would pay all imaginable Deference to his Judgement, as a Divine, I can put no great Faith in him, as a

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Phyfi-

^u Sect. 78. ^v Ibid. ^w As copiously, in Sect. 77, signifies a large Glass an Hour, I imagine very copiously must mean a Quart an Hour. ^x Sect. 5.

Physician; and when I once more surmise, he might be under a Mistake, and call *that* a Peripneumony, which was really some other Distemper; and that the Pleurisy perhaps, which he took for an *original one*, was only *spurious* or *symptomatical*. Had he vouchsafed to have given us a List only of the Symptoms, all Occasion of Cavil would have been cut off, and every Gentleman might have judged for himself. 'Tis true, his Lordship has now put it out of our Power to *prove* him guilty of Misnomers, and this indeed is no inconsiderable Point gain'd; but then, on the other hand, such a Manner of proceeding can never procure any great Degree of Esteem to his favourite Water, with the judicious Part of Mankind.

His Lordship, notwithstanding such wonderful Discoveries were already made by him, could not yet rest satisfied; his Mind was still musing, in order to make greater. And, luckily for the World it happened, his Lordship, going to Bed one Night in a cogitabund Mood, fell into a Dose, and dreamt, What? why, that that same Tar-Water, which had already, in his own Opinion, wrought such Wonders, would work yet greater Miracles, and cure Dropsies. Accordingly, upon waking in the Morning, he sets this Mastiff to attack a stubborn *Anasarca* y, though we must again take his Word that it was an Anasarca. But mark the Effects! how surprizing! by *frequent* and
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large drinking, the Patient, he tells us, *was soon cured of* — what? *his Thirst*. This indeed was a *great Cure*, and I believe it may succeed in such Cases in general, especially, if the Dose be repeated, as Occasion requires. Yet we in *England* have a better Medicine for such Purposes, I mean what is vulgarly call'd *Aqua Pumpaginis*, either alone, or with the Addition of a little Sugar, and Lemon Juice; or in want of these, a good Draught of *Devonshire Cyder*, or *Rhenish Wine*, will very well supply their Defect.

But *Tar-Water*, tho' perhaps it may be equally serviceable in this Case, as in the *Dropsy*, will, I am terribly afraid, never meet with great Encouragement in the *Gout*. 'Tis true, the Bishop's Encomium of it herein is strong and full, *viz.* that he *verily believes it the best and safest Medicine*, either to prevent the *Gout*, or, *so to strengthen Nature against the Fit*, as to drive it from the *Vitals*; but then he unluckily tacks to it, or, *at other Times to change a worse Illness into the Gout, and so get rid of it*². You see plainly then, Dear Sir, that the Bishop is satisfied *Tar-Water* is good for one, or other, of the above recited Purposes, tho' for which of them he seems unable precisely to determine. His Lordship therefore *leaves it to Trial*², whether it be good for any, all, or none of these Ends; and is desirous that others will find out the Truth for him by their own Experience, which perhaps may

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² Sect. 80.• *Ibid.*

be dearly bought. Thus much, I think, may be fairly collected from his own Words, tho' I must own myself at a Loss for the whole of his meaning. What can be implied by changing a worse Illness into the Gout? Will the Use of Tar-Water certainly bring on a Fit of the Gout, in whatever dangerous Distemper it be taken? No surely. Does he mean it will change an irregular Gout into a regular Fit? I should imagine not. This is not, properly speaking, changing a *worse* Illness into the Gout, but the Gout into itself, that is, there is no Change of the Disorder at all, but only a Removal of the same Illness from one Part into another; from the Head, or Stomach, for example, into the Extremities. If after all, that has been said, any one shou'd think his Lordship is to be understood in the former Sense, he has undoubtedly averr'd more than can be proved; yet granting it true, I wou'd dissuade my Friends, from the Use of the Medicine. *That* ought reasonably to be deem'd an ill Cure, which removes a present Disorder in such a manner, as to throw the Patient into another more painful, and that probably too will return upon him, at stated Seasons, as long as he lives. Getting rid of a Distemper thus, is, as it were, jumping out of the Frying-pan into the Fire. If in the latter Sense, he is plainly guilty of an Impropriety in Speech; and though his Belief be strong, it will never be strong enough, without

without any kind of Proof, to evince the Truth of his Assertion. In short, I am weary of conjecturing; and, if neither of the two be his true meaning, shall leave you, and others, to hunt it out for yourselves. I cannot however leave this Matter, without telling you the Opinion of a Friend of mine on this Passage. Soon after the Publication of *Syris*, I fell into Company with an old Gentleman, who, for many Years past, has been severely handled by the Gout. During our Conversation, I found Curiosity had led him to read the Book, which had not a little gravell'd him. 'What a Pox, quoth he, with a good deal of Warmth, does the Bishop mean by talking, Tar-Water will change a *worse* Illness into the Gout? I don't know a worse, and am confident, had he suffer'd half so much from it, as I have done, he would gladly exchange the Gout for any other Distemper.' From hence we may infer, that this unguarded Expression has a very different Effect from what the Bishop intended, and will, in all Likelihood, be greatly instrumental in overthrowing his favourite Water. We *Englishmen* are but too well acquainted with the ill Nature, and Torture, of the Gout, to invite it to take up it's Lodgings in our Quarters.

If we may credit the Bishop, Tar-Water is good too in all kinds of *Scurvy*, whether from an *Acid*, *Alkaline*, or *Muriatic* Cause^b.

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Every one of common Understanding will, I imagine, easily grant him, that no other Medicine, if this be, is adapted to all Cases of the Scurvy; but, as the Disease arises from Causes, so widely different, so different Methods must be used, in order for it's Removal. Notwithstanding this, we had better give an implicit Assent to the Assertion, than endeavour to overthrow it. Tar-Water is both an *Acid*, and an *Alkali*, just as the Bishop pleases; and shou'd we offer to attack it in either Light, this Proteus will immediately change it's Form, and elude our Attempts. For Proof of this, I shall refer you to his Lordship's own Words, who calls it a sulphureous, *acid* Spirit^c, the *acid* Salts of which manifest themselves to the Taste^d. Thus it is plainly an *Acid*. But observe, Dear Sir, and you shall see this same Acid by a gentle Touch of the Doctor's Art, change it's present Nature; hocus pocus, Tar-Water, presto pass quick, and become an Alkali. Accordingly, after this Metamorphosis, we find it emerging, endued with all the good Qualities of an *Alkaline Soap*^e, that is, commenced a pure *Alkali*, blended with Oil. No Wonder then, that it should be so excellent a Panpharmacon in all Diseases, as the Bishop has acquired the Art of changing it's Properties when, and as often as, he thinks proper. Nor let any one *stare*, when his Lordship

^c Sect. 7.^d Sect. 59.^e Sect. 58.

Lordship extols it for being *good, as a Soap, against Viscidity; good against too great Fluidity, as a Balsamic*, that is, when he recommends it in contrary, and diametrically opposite, Disorders^f. The Intention of the Prescriber is sufficient to enable it to answer any End. Tell it but it's Errand, and you may depend upon it's Efficacy, and Dispatch. Would you have it correct a costive Habit of Body? it is done. Wou'd you have it check a Diarrhæa? it will execute your Orders with inimitable Dexterity, and Address^g. How strange soever this may seem, the Bishop's Illustration certainly puts the Matter out of all Doubt, and renders it as clear, as the Light at Noon-day. But how does he illustrate this Point? Why, forsooth, Tar-Water is a middle Property between purging too much, and not at all; that is, I should imagine, is a Laxative. Now if Tar-Water be a Laxative, it may indeed remove a costive Habit, but how it can stop a Purging, is not so easy to conceive.

But I shall examine this Matter a little farther, and consider the Nature of Purging. There is naturally in the Intestines a continual Motion, which is called their *Peristaltic*, or, from the Resemblance it bears to the crawling of a Worm, their *vermicular, Motion*. The Contents of the Guts by this Motion, promoted principally from the Acrimony

^f Sect. 60.^g Sect. 72.

ny of the Bile, are constantly forwarded towards the Anus, till at length they are discharged by Stool. In other Words, the Bile serves as a Stimulus to the Intestines; by this Stimulus a Motion is continued on from the Stomach to the straight Gut; and by that Motion, the Contents of the Intestines are conveyed from one Part to another, so as to be deposited, in the End, under the Form of Excrements. This is the Case in a natural Way; but, if to the common Stimulus from the Bile, &c. we suppose a fresh Stimulus added from a Medicine taken, the Consequence will be, that the vermicular Motion of the Guts will be increased, and therefore the Excretion by Stool must be more frequent, *i. e.* there must be a Purging. If, on the other hand, the Bile be supposed, either, not to be properly secreted in the Liver; or, to be impeded in it's Passage from thence unto the Duodenum, or first Gut, so as not to be pour'd out into that Gut at all, or however, not in a sufficient Quantity; in such Cases, there will be either no Stools at all, or they, less frequent than natural, that is, there will be a Costiveness. It is plain then, that a purging is brought on by the nervous Fibres of the Intestines being too much, or preternaturally stimulated; and that the Want of a natural Excretion by Stool arises from the Bowels not being sufficiently stimulated. The middle between these two Extremes will be a gentle Vellication. Whatever therefore

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fore has the Power of gently twitching the Intestines, may properly enough be said to retain the middle Property between purging too much, and not at all, *i. e.* between what is commonly call'd a Looseness, and Costiveness. But how a Medicine, which gently vellicates the Fibres of the Intestines, and thereby must necessarily promote a quicker, and more frequent, Exclusion of the Fæces, can have the Power of restraining a Flux, is not easy to be conceived. I have observed before, that a Purging proceeds from the nervous Fibres of the Intestines being too much irritated by a Stimulus; how then can a Medicine, that shall irritate them yet more, check a Diarrhæa? Would not this be curing a Disorder by adding *Oleum Igni*? But perhaps it may be urged, the balsamic, viscid Property, inherent in Tar, will so sheath the irritating Particles, as to take off their Stimulus, and at the same time, by lining the Intestines with a new Mucus, will render them less sensible of the preternatural Vellications, producing a Diarrhæa; and thereby remove the Malady. Allowing even this, of what Use can it be to his Lordship? If Tar-Water serves to destroy a *Stimulus* in one Case, how will it become capable of adding one in another? The same Thing, in the same Circumstances, will ever produce the same Effects. It must notwithstanding be granted, that contrary Effects will sometimes result from the Use of the same Medicine, ei-

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ther from some accidental Peculiarity in the Constitution of the Patient, with regard to the Blood, and Humours, &c. of his Body; or from the Quantity, and Manner, in which it is given; but the Bishop makes no Variation in the Dose of, or Times of giving, *his*. I am however aware, that there are Medicines, endued with *contrary Qualities*, which are by no means accidental, but *constant*, and *permanent*. You will, I imagine, readily turn your Eyes upon *Rhubarb*, which indeed, in large Doses, will act the Part of a *Restringent*, as well as a *Cathartic*. But then it is to be observed, that *Rhubarb*, if given in a Quantity, sufficient to purge, will ever leave a Styplicity behind it, not only in one Case, but in all. These united Effects will be inseparable from it; such it's constant Operation; whereas the Bishop's Tar-Water has sometimes the one, and sometimes the other. His Lordship can disrobe it, at pleasure, of either Faculty, and make it become occasionally, as he wants it, purging, or binding. I have dwelt the longer on this Head, in order to shew, that Tar-Water has not these contrary Qualities, at least in the Bishop's Sense; that they are not natural, and genuine any more, than the pricking a Tendon ought to be esteemed the natural, and common Effect of Bleeding; and that, if they flow from it, 'tis by *Accident* only. *Manna* indeed, for Example, or any other purgative Physick, without having the least degree

gree of Restringly, will now and then remove a Diarrhæa, or Purging. Put the Case, that the Fæces have been long retained, and the Body costive; by this Retention the Excrements will acquire an Acrimony, which will continually stimulate, and excite the Intestines to an Excretion of their Contents: in other Language, the Consequence of such Retention will be an Acrimony in the Fæces, and of that Acrimony, a Purging. Whatever therefore will dislodge the Enemy from the Bowels, and carry off the offending Matter by Stool, is calculated, in this Case, to remove the Disorder, and to reduce Nature to a regular, and uniform, Course. Nevertheless, Astringency ought not to be assigned to *Manna*, as a genuine, primary, Quality; since it will by no means answer this Intention in general; and in this Instance, works the Effect by Accident, and as a common Evacuant only. But to return to his Lordship. To shew us that middle Qualities will really reduce the Extreme, he instances in warm Water, added to hot, and cold; this, he assures us, will render the one less hot, and the other less cold^h. Is not this admirable, and most oracular indeed? Who could once have thought, that a mere Man (for more than that the Bishop, I presume, will not pretend to be) would have been capable of making such amazing Discoveries, viz. that Heat and Cold are relative Qualities; and that there are Degrees of Intensity in Heat and Cold.

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^h Sect. 72.

The last thing, I shall take notice of, is, the Property, it has of *resisting Putrefaction*. This, the Bishop tells us, *is a Quality remarkable in Tar, with which the Ancients were wont to embalm and preserve dead Bodies*ⁱ; that to obviate Putrefaction, he believes, the most effectual Method would be, to embalm the living Body with Tar-Water, copiously drank^k. His Lordship is confident this would be a means of *prolonging Life*^l; and seems to have a great Inclination to recommend it, as a Medicine, adapted to eternize the Man, and to render him immortal. Prudential Considerations might probably induce him to wave his Design, and nip his Meditations in the Bud. Had he promulged his Sentiments on this Head, they must inevitably have lessened the Credit of the whole, and laid him open to the Censure of the sober, thinking, Part of Mankind, as contrary to Reason, to Experience, and Scripture. Besides, had such Opinion, absurd as it is, gained Belief, from the sole Authority of his Lordship, the Discovery, I am afraid, would have proved of dangerous Consequence to himself. Already, young Gentlemen frequently think their Parents live too long, and what would they have done, had those Parents been made to live always? The Discoverer's Life must doubtless have paid for so great an Offence. Elsewhere indeed, his Lordship seems to have *hinted* his Opinion on this Point, but then it is *so obscurely done*, that, I imagine, he

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ⁱ Sect. 49.^k Sect. 91.^l Sect. 105.

may yet continue to sleep in a whole Skin. In Sect. 3. we are told it may be drank with great Safety, and *Succeſs, for any Length of Time.* Suppoſing then a certain Time, a Month for Inſtance, neceſſary for the Drinking of Tar-Water, in order for a Cure: let the Patient drink it one Month, and he will be *well*; a ſecond Month, and he will be *better*; a third Month, and he will be *beſt of all*. In fine, let him continue the drinking it on, *Succeſs* will ever attend; 'till at length he will find himſelf placed on the very Conſines of Immortality, when he may ſtep into it's Territories without any Difficulty. I don't know, my Friend, how you may reliſh my Comment upon the Words; to me the Interpretation ſeems eaſy, and natural.

But whatever Favour the Biſhop may ſhew to Tar-Water, he has taken no ſmall Antipathy, and Diſguſt, to moſt other Medicines. Soap is almoſt the only one he ſpeaks well of, which he does too, as fancying it to partake ſomewhat of the Nature of his favourite Tar. His Lordſhip is terribly apprehenſive of the ill Effects of *Opium, mercurial Preparations, and all ſuch as are of the mineral Kingdom^m*, and indeed with ſome Reaſon; edged Tools will ever be dangerous in the Hands of Children. The common People in his Neighbourhood have undoubtedly cauſe to rejoice hereat, as his Lordſhip is generally their Phyſician. The Faculty

^m Sect. 56, 70, 71, & paſſim.

Faculty however will hardly think themselves much obliged to him for endeavouring to bring these capital Medicines into Disrepute, without the Assistance of which they must often find themselves restrained in such a Manner, as to be unable to afford the Sick the desired Relief. But how furious soever they may appear to him, I can assure his Lordship, that there are Gentlemen, who know how to tame them, and render them, not only innocent, but salutiferous. We ought therefore to look upon the Bishop, as a Parent, passionately fond of his own Brat; the Interest of which, though never so worthless in itself, he is determined to promote at any Rate, even with the Sacrifice of Things, the most useful and beneficial. But as well might he forbid the Reading of the Bible, because some ignorant, and perverse, People have badly interpreted, and wrested, obscure Passages therein, to the Detriment, and Disgrace, of the true Religion; or, with equal Reason, censure wholesome Meats, and Drinks, since some inconsiderate, gormandizing, Wretches have eat, and drank, to their own Destruction, as decry Calomel, &c. because it happens sometimes to be injudiciously applied. 'Tis the right Use of Medicines, that distinguishes the Physician from the Quack; the Man of Sense, and Judgment, from the Pretender to both. To put a Sword into a Madman's Hands will probably be attended with fatal Consequences; yet, I conceive,

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ceive, every rational Person will esteem it a good defensive Weapon, when in the Custody of a prudent one.

I shou'd tire your Patience, Dear Sir, as well as exceed my Design, were I to examine minutely every Particular in the Bishop's Book; and shall conclude this long Epistle by giving you, in his own Words, a List of the Diseases, Tar-Water is adapted to remove. Herein my Design is, to promote your Ease, and save you the trouble of collecting them, by placing, before you at one View, the various Uses of this Medicine. Tar-Water then is a good Preservative against, and Preparative for the small Pox¹, and all Epidemical Distempers². It speedily cures cutaneous Eruptions, Ulcers, and the foulest Distempers³, and succeeds in tedious, and painful, Ulcerations of the Bowels; in a Consumptive Cough; in a Pleurisy, Peripneumony, and Erysipelas, even beyond our Hopes⁴. This most excellent Water is extremely Pectoral, and Restorative, possessing the most valuable Qualities, ascribed to the several Balsams of *Tolu*, *Capivi*, &c. nay even to the precious Balm of *Gilead*⁵, and is better than the costly Balsam of *Peru*⁶. Nor is it only useful, as an excellent Balsam⁷, but also in cachectic, and hysteric, Cases⁸; as a powerful, and safe Deobstruent, answering the Intentions of *Asafætida*, *Myrrh*, *Amber*; and

¹ Sect. 2.² Sect. 85.³ Sect. 4.⁴ Sect. 5.⁵ Sect. 21.⁶ Sect. 62.⁷ Sect. 10.⁸ Sect. 6.

and in general, of all the *nervous Gums*, and *Resins* ⁹. It has the Virtues, in a great Degree of *Salt of Amber*, as a Detergent, Diaphoretic, and Diuretic ¹⁰; and as it is cleansing, and healing, at the same Time it is Diuretic, 'tis good in the Gravel, and Anasarca ¹¹, as well as all Obstructions, and Ulcerations of the urinary Passages ¹². This Water of Health ¹³, for so it may properly be called, possesses the Virtues, in an eminent Degree, of *Guaiacum*, and the other medicinal Woods ¹⁴, and has the stomachic, and cardiac Qualities of *Stoughton's Drops*, and *Elixir Proprietatis* ¹⁵, together with all the good Qualities of an *Alkaline Soap* ¹⁶. 'Tis an admirable Febrifuge ¹⁷, being in Fevers, and all Epidemical, as well as chronical, Diseases, a most useful, and efficacious, Medicine ¹⁸. It contains too the Virtues of the best Chalybeate, and Sulphureous, Waters, than which in some Instances it is better ¹⁹; and is highly useful in Cramps, Spasms, and paralytic Numbness ²⁰. Where the Body is bound, it purges; when lax, restringes; in too great Viscidity of the Blood, it acts as a Resolvent, and in too great Fluidity of it, becomes coagulating ²¹. It cures bloody Fluxes, tho' of long continuance ²², and Gangrenes from internal Causes ²³.

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| ⁹ Sect. 51. | ¹⁰ Sect. 23. | ¹¹ Sect. 6. |
| ¹² Sect. 84. | ¹³ Sect. 66. | ¹⁴ Sect. 47. |
| ¹⁶ Sect. 58. | ¹⁷ Sect. 7. | ¹⁵ Sect. 53. |
| ¹⁹ Sect. 64. | ²⁰ Sect. 66. | ¹⁸ Sect. 60. |
| ²² Sect. 79. | | ²¹ Sect. 72. and 69. |
| | | ²³ Sect. 82. |

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In fine, 'tis of general Use in all Scorbutic Cases ²⁴, resists Putrefaction, and is instrumental in procuring long Life ²⁵.

I have now worn out my Pen, but cannot, in justice to his Lordship, close this Epistle, without giving him Thanks, as in Duty bound, for his *new*, and *great* Discoveries in Physick. Almost infinite is the Variety, with which his Book abounds: I shall however select only a few Passages, and reduce them to three general Heads. 1st, Such as he, and I, and every Body knows. Of this kind are the following Observations, *That Inflammations are often caused by Obstructionsⁿ; that it is easier to assimilate the gentler, than the stronger Acids^o; and that the immediate Cause of the Scurvy lies in the Blood^p*. 2^{dly}, Such as he only, neither I, nor any Body else knows. Such are these, *That Opium, in hysterical, and hypochondriacal Affections, is frequently known to produce grievous Disorders^q; that in a high Degree of the Scurvy, a Salivation is looked upon as the only Cure^r*. 3^{dly}, Such as neither he, nor I, nor any Body else knows. Of this kind are the following, viz. *That mild native Acids are observed more thoroughly to dissolve metallic Bodies, than the strongest acid Spirits^s; that acid Spirits are in truth volatile Salts^t*.

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²⁴ Sect. 97.²⁵ Sect. 49.ⁿ Sect. 60.^o Sect. 124.^p Sect. 95.^q Sect. 70.^r Sect. 100.^s Sect. 124.^t Sect. 7.

I have now, Dear Sir, gone thro' my Design, and finish'd the Work, which I undertook at first with a View of doing you a Pleasure, and at the same Time to serve as an Antidote against the mischievous Effects Tar-Water is likely to produce, if so generally, and indiscriminately taken, as the Bishop wou'd have it. If I have succeeded in these my Designs, I shall look upon myself sufficiently rewarded for all my Trouble; but if, on the other Hand, I have fallen short of your Expectation, and of benefiting the World in the manner propos'd, I beg you will at least esteem it, as well intended by

Dear S I R,

Your most affectionate, and

July 24th 1744.

most humble Servant,

Riforius.